

OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

Riddles for Little Folks.

What is it flying in the air,
With tallest houses under,
But if you climb and pull its tail
It will roar out like thunder?
Answer—The church bell.

Out came the Lord of Landless,
Took her up handless,
Rode away horseless.
Answer—"Her" is a snowflake, and
the Lord Landless is the sun.

Two black dogs under my bed wait-
ing to swallow their fill of bones and
raw meat in the morning.
Answer—Only your shoes.

What is it I've got and would like
to deny,
But if I should lose it I'd do worse
than cry?
Answer—His bald head.

When I wasn't looking for it I found
it;
When I found it I sat down to look
for it;
And when I looked at it I couldn't
get it,
And therefore I carried it home with
me.
Answer—A thorn in the foot.

Between two woods I traveled
Along a narrow track;
But I came between two waters,
When I traveled the same way
back.
Answer—A boy who goes to the
spring for water, with a wooden
bucket on each arm.

It travels with me all day on its head,
And all night long it sits by my bed.
Answer—A tack in the shoe.
—Seumas MacManus.

Explaining Some Things You Have Noticed.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

Almost every farmer has gone into his fields some sharp fall morning after the first killing frost to find parts of the vegetation killed, while patches here and there were seemingly unaffected. It is often the case that within a single acre a dozen small areas may be found unharmed by the night's temperature, while all around the injury is fatal. There are several reasons which contribute to such a result, the principal one being the difference in the radiating powers of the various soils that make up the out-crop. Dark soils radiate heat more rapidly at night than light ones, and heat up correspondingly quicker under the influence of the sun's rays. The character of foilage of the plants, the amount of moisture in the air, the presence of clouds and the elevation of the field, all have their effect. It is well known that frost is much more likely to occur on a still night than on a windy night or one which is cloudy. Every farmer also knows that the lowest temperatures are reached in the valleys at night, because the cool air nearest the earth, being heavy, seeks the lowest levels and flows down the hillside into the valley. Every truck farmer should take these factors into consideration in deciding what he will plant on his land, giving the most favorable locations to the plants most susceptible to injury from frost.

TODD.

A Family of Opossums.

The first young opossums I ever saw were in their mother's pouch, which is one of the most interesting stages of their development, to my way of thinking. I was examining a hollow tree in a forest in the South, when I discovered an old opossum curled up, apparently asleep. The sight was not a new one, and I should probably have left her to finish her nap had I not caught sight of a little white head, with a long, pointed snout and a pair of beady black eyes, which peered at me from beneath the larger animal. This was entirely another matter, so I took the old lady opossum gently by the tail, and lifted her out of the tree. As I did so she growled angrily, and opened her mouth in a horrible grin, displaying a mouthful of white teeth of many sorts and sizes. But I knew that this was done chiefly for effect, for an opossum will rarely bite unless you put your hand in its mouth, or in some other way give it a good chance to get hold of you. Her scaly, muscular tail squirmed in my hand like a snake, and before I got her quite to the ground I dropped her. Slight as was the fall, it killed her, apparently, for there she lay with lips drawn back, and curled up in the very attitude of death. But she was only "playing possum," and as I had seen the trick played before. I was not deceived. Not a young one was in sight; even the one which had betrayed to me the presence of the family had retired to the depths of his mother's pouch. So I rolled her over, and putting in my hand, drew out the babies one by one. There were twelve of them, and when I laid them on the grass, they crawled slowly about, opening their mouths to yawn or to give vent to the explosive little squeaks, which sounded more like suppressed sneezing than anything I can think of. Very soon they found their mother, and began to climb upon her body, holding to her long gray fur with their hand-like paws. When I tried to detach one little fellow it was amusing to see the efforts he made to retain his position. He grasped a tuft of long hair in each of his tiny fists, seized another tuft in his mouth, and twined his flexible tail firmly around another. Left to his own devices, his mother need have had no fear of his falling off.—Ernest Harold Baynes, in the December Woman's Home Companion.

Love for Mother.

Robert Buchanan had one deep enthusiasm—his mother. She was always young in her appearance, but he regarded her to the end of her life as abounding even in girlish charms. He could never realize that she was growing old. In looking at her, even when she was close upon eighty, he saw the soft blue eyes and golden hair which he had loved long ago.

"I cannot imagine my mother as old," he said again and again the day after she died. "I do not feel that she is dead, for I cannot imagine the world without her."

When a youth of eighteen, he went up to London "to take the world by storm," he was a miserably homesick lad. He sat in a corner of the railway carriage, his heart aching, his eyes dim with tears.

"I realized," he says, "that I was for the first time quite friendless and alone. I thought of my dear mother praying for me at home, and I longed to turn back and ask her forgiveness for any pain I had caused her. Even now I never take a railway journey at night without recalling the dismal heartache of that midnight journey to London."

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